

# NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service  
Caribou-Targhee National Forest  
1405 Hollipark Drive  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: **June 23, 2006**

Contact: **Jeff Jones, 208-547-4356**  
**Joanna Wilson, 208-557-5823**

## **Comment Period Extended for Smoky Canyon Mine Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis**

**Soda Springs, Idaho:** In response to a formal request to extend the comment period on the Engineering Evaluation Cost Analysis (EE/CA) prepared to address contaminant releases from the Smoky Canyon Mine Pole Canyon Overburden Disposal area, the Caribou-Targhee National Forest is extending the comment period 15 days, in accordance with National Contingency Plan regulations 40 CFR 300.415 (n)(4)(iii), to **July 24, 2006**. The Forest Service will be hosting additional public open houses at the following locations from 6 to 8 p.m.

July 19th - Greys River Ranger District, 125 Washington Street, Afton, WY  
July 20th - Soda Springs Ranger District, 410 East Hooper Ave., Soda Springs, ID

These meetings will be held to provide the public information on the Site Investigation and Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) developed in response to the release of Selenium and other hazardous substances from the Smoky Canyon Mine. Public information meetings are required in the community involvement plan for the site to provide concerned citizens an opportunity to review and the Forest Service to receive comments on the EE/CA alternatives being presented for the Smoky Canyon Mine. Public comments along with suggestions from other agencies will help an interdisciplinary team decide which alternative(s) to implement.

This EE/CA describes the Forest Service's preferred Removal Action Alternatives to respond to the release of hazardous substances from the Pole Canyon Cross Valley Fill or Overburden Disposal Area (ODA). The Forest Service' preferred response described for the initial phase of work anticipated for Smoky Canyon includes the diversion of Pole Creek around the ODA, an infiltration gallery, installation of run-on control structures, and return of water to Sage Valley that has been unaffected

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by mine waste rock. Several other Removal Action alternatives were considered to segregate surface water from mine wastes stored in the Pole Canyon ODA. Other alternatives considered but not selected for this phase of the response action, may be considered at a later time.

The Administrative Record for this response is located at Soda Springs Ranger District and is available for public inspection during regular business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The EE/CA and Site Investigation Report can be found at [www.fs.fed.us/r4/caribou-targhee/phosphate/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/caribou-targhee/phosphate/) and <http://giscenter-ims.isu.edu/SISP/>.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection under the Freedom of Information Act. Comments received during the public comments period will be review by the Forest Service and considered in the decision process. A written response will be provided to all substantive commenters.

The EE/CA was prepared under the Forest Service's authority derived from Section 104 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund; Title 42, United States Code, section 9604) and Federal Executive Order 12580, and is consistent with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) as found at Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 300.

For more information, please contact the Soda Springs Ranger District at (208) 547-4356.

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